

## Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007 Committee Statement LB 250

**Hearing Date:** January 25, 2007

Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Synowiecki)

**Title:** Create a religious exemption from mandatory infant screening tests

## **Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

## **Vote Results:**

5 Yes Senators Johnson, Erdman, Gay, Pankonin, Stuthman

No Senators Hansen, Howard

Present, not voting

Absent

**Proponents:** Representing:

Senator Synowiecki Introducer

Josue Anaya Self

Amy Miller ACLU Nebraska

Louise Spiering Self Mary Anaya Self

**Opponents:** Representing:

Rita Swan Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty

Bruce R. Rieker Nebraska Hospital Association

Carman DeMare Self

Larry Bausch
Joann Schaefer

Nebraska Medical Association
Health and Human Services

**Neutral:** Representing:

## **Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 250 relates to the mandatory screening of infants born in the State of Nebraska for certain metabolic diseases. The bill provides that a parent or guardian of an infant born in Nebraska may request and may be granted an exemption from such requirement upon the filing of a written objection with the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and

Licensure (department) based on the sincerely held religious beliefs of the child's parent or guardian.

The parent or guardian assumes all liability for medical costs that may result from and are directly related to the decision to request the exemption. The bill provides that the State of Nebraska and the department would assume no liability for such medical costs.

The bill provides immunity for criminal or civil liability for physicians, registered nurses, health care providers, hospitals, or other birthing facilities, clinical laboratories, or the officers or employees of a physician, hospital, or other birthing facility for reporting information in good faith to the department or its designee prior to the filing of a written objection by the parent or guardian.

The bill provides that the ability of a parent or guardian to file such an objection be part of written materials prepared by the department explaining the requirements of the mandatory metabolic disease screening program.

| Explanation of amendments, if any: |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                    |                                   |
|                                    | Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson |